From:

chuck hinkle

To: Date: Microsoft ATR 11/16/01 8:08am

Subject:

Wrong kind of message

If I recall, it is an accepted conclusion that Microsoft deliberately acted in a ruthless and illegal manner. Their actions forced many competitors in the application and utility and operating system arenas out of business, thus reducing our choices as consumers while raising prices and lowering quality.

As a result, this settlement permits Microsoft to maintain the gains of these illegal operations, imposes no monetary penalties, and I don't see where it does anything to prevent them from continuing these practices, particularly since there are no consequences for this behavior.

If we're not going to punish the criminals, then why bother to prosecute them? And if we condone Microsoft's illegal activities, then how can we justify prosecuting others?

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"Perception is usually more persuasive than reality."